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15. — *The Poems of ROBERT LOWELL*, Author of "The New Priest of Conception Bay." A New Edition (with many new Poems). Boston: E. P. Dutton & Co. 1864. 16mo. pp. 206.

THERE are few recent volumes of poetry of which we could greet a new edition with more satisfaction than that with which we welcome this new issue of the Rev. Mr. Lowell's Poems. Its contents are indeed of very various merit, but there are poems in the little volume which are permanent additions to our literature.

Mr. Lowell has not only the poetic feeling, but at times he displays possession of the genuine poetic faculty. His "Songs of our Holy War," as he calls them, are among the best of the Lyrics of Loyalty. "The Massachusetts Line" and "The Men of the Cumberland" have attained a popularity to which their spirit and vigor give them good title. They are inspired with such fervor of patriotism, and with such real sympathy with brave deeds, that they answer the true end of the patriotic lyric, by quickening the zeal and animating the courage of all engaged in maintaining the good cause. One feels the throbs of the heart in the rhythm of the verse, and the reader shares in the emotion with which the poet was filled.

Mr. Lowell's genius is most quickly responsive to the heroic tone in life, and his nature finds in bold and brave deeds, on sea or land, its most inspiring cordial. It seems like a freak of fortune that such a man should be engaged in the quiet duties of a country parish, and not be in command on the quarter-deck of a man-of-war, or at the head of a storming column. There is a marked contrast between the vigor and manliness of his patriotic, and the want of freshness and simplicity of some of his religious verse.

The finest poem in the volume — and the one in which Mr. Lowell's imaginative powers are most strikingly displayed — is that called "The Brave Old Ship, The Orient." It is a narrative of admirable directness and concentration of interest. It is full of the awful mystery and beauty and strength of the sea. It is not a real incident versified, but a work of pure imagination, in which the conception and execution are throughout noble and consistent. The form and melody of the verse reproduce the swell and tone of the ocean, and are in subtile harmony with the progress and catastrophe of the wild story. We beg Mr. Lowell to expunge in another edition the foot-note which reduces this noble poem from the universal regions of the imagination to the narrow limits of a very superficial and obscure allegory.

We heartily commend the volume to all lovers of poetry who are not yet acquainted with it.